

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1416
By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the congregation of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Hendersonville upon the occasion of the church's 125th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of our nation have been an integral part of our history as a people and have an unparalleled impact in forming and maintaining a stable and just society; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; one such estimable institution is Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Dr. George T. Brooks, Jr., and the congregation of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church are celebrating the church's 125th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, upon reaching this venerable milestone, the faithful members of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church have found it fitting to reflect upon the past, give thanks for the present, and joyfully anticipate a future filled with spiritual enrichment; and

WHEREAS, organized in 1881, the early church had approximately fifteen members and was pastored by Reverend Hackman; the original structure consisted of a log building and doubled as a church and a school; after being destroyed by fire in the early 1900s, the church was rebuilt in its present location, and the devout spirit of the congregational descendants has remained strong throughout the last 125 years; and

WHEREAS, just as the church's good works have remained constant, so has this special place been witness to many renowned preachers, including the current pastor, Dr. George T.

Brooks, Jr., who preached his first official sermon as Pastor of Mt. Olivet on the first Sunday of 2002; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Brooks's dynamic leadership and through the grace of God, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church has installed a new sound system with closed circuit television capabilities, completed the refurbishing of the Education Building, installed an illuminated church sign, and purchased new furniture; and

WHEREAS, significantly, through his continued leadership and guidance Dr. Brooks has instituted a monthly Sunday School Teachers Workshop, a Church Leadership Workshop, and a Senior Citizen's Program; in addition, congregants eagerly await the upcoming installation of a new roof and carpeting, stained glass windows, and the repaving and enlargement of the parking facilities; and

WHEREAS, while the aforementioned achievements are primarily of a physical nature, they are not meant to overshadow Mt. Olivet Baptist Church's tremendous spiritual gains over the last 125 years; the church's primary business has always been and will continue to be spreading the gospel and seeking salvation; and

WHEREAS, the church's members have long made prominent contributions to the civic, educational, and social fabric of Tennessee and the nation, as evidenced by the church's active programs of goodwill; and

WHEREAS, as a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church of Hendersonville is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Hendersonville and Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the 125th Anniversary of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church of Hendersonville, thank Pastor Dr. George T. Brooks, Jr., and the good people of this historic congregation for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.